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the students of government, but a service has been rendered by bringing them to the attention of the public with the realism of a trained reporter. Surface conditions in other States seem to indicate that the corruption and perversion of public rights are not incident to the States and cities described in this volume. In fact, events have transpired elsewhere since its publication that indicate a wide operation of the "system."

One gains the impression that Mr. Steffens has not told all that was found in the conditions described, on the ground that all the truth might engender a pessimism which would be fatal to wholesome results. In fact there is hopefulness for the reason that the powerfully entrenched "system" has been overthrown where a proper leader of the people has taken up their cause.

But the most hopeful indication is that the corporate interests are now changing their attitude toward government. In those States where the people have come to their rights and effectively control the situation—notably in Wisconsin—no longer do corporations attempt to secure legislation or to prevent it by the devious methods of former days. Open, fair discussion and consideration of measures upon their merits is now the rule. This change of front is largely due to the fact that all interests, private and public, are considered with fairness and justice. When the former antagonisms, the offspring of a predatory system, are broken down, self-government will be realized, upon a basis of justice in which the rights of all will be fully protected. In the meantime some drastic work must be done in many of our States and cities in order to lay the foundation for constructive legislation already under headway in a few of the States and cities.

The value of Mr. Steffens' volume consists largely in a vivid portrayal of conditions which have made possible the work of the system—a composite of social, political and business interests. The author came to this task with the training of a reporter, and while some of the defects of this training are apparent in style and method, still the main purpose of the volume is fully realized.

S. E. SPARLING.

The France of Today. By BARRETT WENDELL. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1907. Pp. 379.)

Some years ago Mr. Bodley published his elaborate work in two volumes on France. He had been engaged on it over seven years. The present volume is not a work of the nature of Mr. Bodley's. It consists

of eight chapters: The Universities, The Structure of Society, The Family, The French Temperament, The Relation of Literature to Life, The Question of Religion, The Revolution and its Effects, The Republic and Democracy. In the form of lectures these were delivered in the Lowell Institute, Boston, in 1906, and four of them later published in *Scribner's Magazine*. They are written in a delightfully easy style and the reader finds himself going from one page to the next with increasing delight. Numerous anecdotes enliven the author's narrative and serve to fix the points he wishes to make.

The basis for writing them was one year of observation of French manners and customs which the author enjoyed while lecturer at French universities under the Hyde foundation. Mr. Wendell is a keen observer and though a longer residence might have changed his views in respect to some things—notably in regard to that over-burdening seriousness of the French professional school student—nevertheless the book is abundantly welcome because it serves in so many instances to correct wrong impressions which casual American travelers have received of French life.

Only the most important of these may be mentioned here. So much has been made of German scholarship that it is a pleasure to have in print something which shows the very high standards of French professors. Those who arraign France for her stationary numbers in population should dwell on the sentence: "The puny squalor of childhood, familiar to any eye in England or America, in Germany or Italy, or almost anywhere else, is hardly found among the French." Those of us who with borrowed finery of language are accustomed to dub people or things "bourgeois" will find that "bourgeois" is very different from the ordinary acceptance of the sense of that word in England and America. Of the peasants or masses the author acknowledges he saw nothing, but his picture of the felicities of the "foyer" and the high moral tone of French family life will come as a surprise to those who have received their impressions of all of France by seeing life on the boulevards, in students halls or in the cafés of Paris. With sensible appreciation he shows us why it is that the French novels by even such worthy men as members of the French Academy are no index of what true French life is. Whatever may be said to the detriment of a Frenchman's morals his talk with other Frenchmen is not bawdy—a state of affairs which is only too frequently reversed in America and England. "The French are given to writing things which they would not say; English-speaking men are given to saying things which they would not write." Substi-

tute "doing" and "do" in place of "writing" and "write" and the sentence would be just as true. In America some of the bauldiest talkers are most correct in moral rectitude.

The author touches on the whole question of religion with singularly good taste. He quotes one French lady to the effect: "Any one can see our frivolity, but no one can know us who does not know our piety." He also gives a clever account of the intolerance of the anti-clericals: "No clerical intolerance was ever more sincere or more unrelenting than the anti-clerical intolerance of these very times."

For the trained historians the chapters on the Revolution and the republic will prove tame reading, but for the general reader they will prove enlightening. Like most recent writers on France, Mr. Wendell feels that the present form of government in France has a better chance for continuance than any of its predecessors since the Revolution. The weakest chapter in the book is that on French temperament. Here the author occupies some forty-six pages in stating that Frenchmen are fond of scientific classifications and systems. Outside of some obvious padding, however, the book is of greatest value in giving the reader a true appreciation of France and Frenchmen without overburdening him with encyclopedic details. On French government and politics he does not touch.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

American History and Government. By JAMES ALBERT WOODBURN, Ph.D and THOMAS FRANCIS MORAN, Ph.D. (New York, Longmans, Green and Company. 1906. Pp. lxxxviii, 476.)

This volume represents an attempt to satisfy the demands of those who believe that American history and government may be best taught from a single text. The book is intended for use in the last two years of the grammar school—that is for pupils of twelve and thirteen years.

In method of treatment the work does not differ very much in its narrative portions from former texts intended for similar grades. An attempt is made in an introductory chapter to connect American history with mediaeval and ancient history. The story of exploration, colonization, the anglo-French conflicts, and the Revolution is brought down to the formation of the Constitution.

After a chapter on the last topic there are inserted seven chapters on American government: The New Government; The Senate; The House